



February 10, 2024

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ARIZONA

Senate Republicans don't support males invading bathrooms, showers, locker rooms, or sports competitions of innocent women and girls. These intrusions risk their safety, security, right to privacy, and fairness. Imagine having a teen daughter who's forced to shower or strip down in a locker room with a teen male claiming he thinks he's a woman. It's happening, and it's absolutely ludicrous. I'm sponsoring the Arizona Women's Bill of Rights to create clarity and uniformity to state laws governing sex discrimination and equality of the sexes. This bill helps preserve sex-specific spaces and clarifies relevant definitions to ensure the safety and well-being of girls and women. I hosted a press conference with former University of Pennsylvania swimmer Paula Scanlan. She was forced to share a locker room and compete with Lia Thomas, a trans-identifying male swimmer. Even under immense pressure to keep silent, Scanlan bravely spoke out against the abuses.



-Senator Sine Kerr

IMPROVING OUR ELECTIONS SYSTEMS

A bipartisan bill championed by Senate Republicans to improve Arizona's elections systems with time-saving reforms encouraging efficiency, transparency, and integrity was sent to the Governor for approval. HB 2785 corrects unintended election deadline conflicts stemming from 2022 bipartisan legislation to improve voter confidence on tight races. As part of the reforms outlined, for the first time since mail-in ballots were introduced in Arizona, signature verification standards will be enshrined into statute. Men and women who are serving in our armed forces overseas will be guaranteed the opportunity to cast a ballot in our elections. This year, a hard count of early ballots dropped off at the polls by voters on election day will be required to improve security and confidence that all lawful votes will be counted accurately. Additionally, in 2026, voters may bring their early ballots to the polls on election day and have them counted immediately after showing identification for timely results.



-Senator Wendy Rogers



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HOBBS SHOULD AVOID MAKING ANOTHER COSTLY MISTAKE

Arizona's Republican majority has legislated on the understanding that responsible government is recognizing that we can't tax our way into prosperity, and we can't spend our way into stability. Last session, the Republican majority put on Hobbs' desk, an intelligent, clean budget that protected our state government's core functions and enhanced programs that directly benefit the people of Arizona, while also trimming unnecessary spending and eliminating wasteful programs. The Director of the non-partisan agency that calculates numbers for our state government recently confirmed that our budget would have given Arizona a \$500 million surplus. Hobbs vetoed that surplus. Like last year, the Republican majority will submit a responsible, balanced budget which spends within our means and prioritizes the needs of our citizens while eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse. Hobbs should sign that proposal and not repeat the same billion-dollar mistake. I recently voiced this opinion in an [op-ed in the Arizona Capitol Times](#).



-Senator Justine Wadsack



TEACHER PAY FUND ADVANCES IN SENATE

There's no debate that Arizona has a teacher shortage. The main factor is low pay. In Senate Education Committee this week, we heard from a new teacher serving at a local charter school. She recently applied for a similar position in Colorado and was offered a starting salary of up to \$17,000 more. While she wants to settle down in Arizona, she's forced to supplement her income with a second job just to make ends meet. Many of her classmates left Arizona upon graduation because they received higher paying jobs elsewhere. To retain quality teachers, Senate Republicans want to provide raises averaging \$4000, bringing our teacher pay above the national average. We can make this happen if the Legislature passes and voters approve SCR 1027 and SCR 1034. Both bills passed out of committee this week, with all Democrats voting no. Partisan teacher unions and the Governor's office also opposed our plan.



-Senator J.D. Mesnard





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BORDER SECURITY BILLS PASS OUT OF COMMITTEE

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office reports another illegal alien, previously arrested in the U.S., prompted a high-speed chase through my district while evading law enforcement in a stolen vehicle with a loaded handgun. He fled after crashing the vehicle, but deputies captured him. According to testimony this week in the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, Public Safety & Border Security, there have been nearly 500 similar pursuits in Cochise County by illegals from 2022 to 2023. These criminals top speeds of 120 mph, threatening the lives of our citizens. You can watch the full testimony [here](#). I'm happy to report my bill, SB 1408, which will create tougher punishments for those who engage in this illegal activity, passed out of committee with bipartisan support. Additionally, Senator Shamp's border security bill, SB 1231, also passed out of committee.



-Senator David Gowan

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN FROM SEX CRIMES

Protecting Arizona's children from sex crimes is a priority for Senate Republicans and something every member of our caucus is passionate about. I've introduced several bills to increase penalties against people who commit these heinous acts. Adults convicted of child sex trafficking should be sentenced to prison for the rest of their natural life, which is why I co-sponsored SCR 1021 with Senator Bolick. We're now one step closer to giving voters the chance to decide whether to make that the law. If you rape a child 12 years or under, and they suffer serious physical injury, capital punishment fits the crime. SB 1232 would allow the state to seek the death penalty for an adult defendant convicted of such a crime. I also sponsored bills that would require a level one sex offender sentenced for a dangerous crime against children to register on the internet sex offender website, and for DPS to notify a school if a child has a parent who's a sex offender. All of these bills passed out of committee.



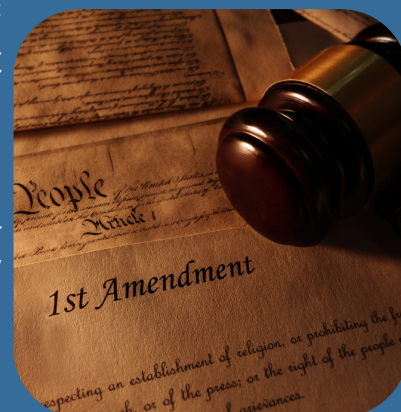
-Senator Janae Shamp



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CRACKING DOWN ON FREE SPEECH VIOLATIONS

As a result of insightful testimony during hearings of the Joint Legislative Ad Hoc Committee on Freedom of Expression at Arizona's Public Universities, I was able to introduce legislation to protect the First Amendment rights of individuals on Arizona's public university campuses. These universities are funded by millions in taxpayer dollars and should never abuse their authority to suppress anyone's rights. I've sponsored a bill that would require the Arizona Board of Regents and each community college district governing board to adopt an enforceable free expression policy that allows students and faculty to assemble or engage in expressive activities without penalty or retaliation. SB1304 would also increase transparency by requiring teachers to show what they're teaching, including posting the course syllabus to the academic institution's website. This legislation passed out of committee.



-Senator Anthony Kern

REGULATING SOBER LIVING HOMES

The fraud, abuse, and corruption surrounding sober living homes has made recent headlines across Arizona. This has brought concerns for the safety of individuals seeking treatment at these facilities, as well as the neighborhoods and communities they're popping up in. People running many of these "sober living homes" are completely taking advantage of the system, and this need to end. If you're not licensed, you shouldn't be in business. I've sponsored SB 1361 to help establish and ensure that requirement. This bill gives authorization to the Department of Health Services to further investigate and handle situations of abuse by modifying DHS requirements relating to the licensing, oversight, and regulation of sober living homes. It also would allow for greater penalization of these facilities that are noncompliant with applicable state and local regulations. I want to ensure people battling with substance abuse get the help they need, and our neighborhoods remain safe.



-Senator Frank Carroll



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